

Skier-Triggered wind slabs in the N. Bridgers

Fairy Lake

Bridger Range

3/11/2019

Code

HS-ASu-R1-D2-I

Elevation

8000

Aspect

E

Latitude

45.90450

Longitude

-110.95700

Notes

Two groups in the Northern Bridgers noted signs of instability in wind-transported snow and were able to [trigger](#) wind slabs. From one email: "My partner and I toured up in the Northern Bridgers today near Ainger Lake and found conditions to be more touchy than we expected. The wind was blowing hard when we entered the basin, and we observed some snow transport. As we got higher, we observed variable wind affected snow and thin [wind slab](#), and dug a pit finding no notable weak layers aside from the [wind slab](#) which was breaking off in chunks as we skinned. We witnessed a shooting crack through the [wind slab](#) that was 2-5 cm thick where we were, and soon after triggered a small [slide](#) and turned around. At its deepest the crown was around 15 cm thick, so a lot thicker than what we had previously been seeing! It wasn't a problem where we were, probably about enough to knock someone down and take them for a short ride, but could have been consequential in more dangerous terrain." Photos: E. Birkeland, E. Marcoux

Multiple Avalanches

Number of slides

2

Number caught

0

Number buried

0

Number killed

0

Avalanche Type

Hard slab avalanche

Trigger

Skier

Trigger Modifier

u-An unintentional release

R size

1

D size

2

Bed Surface

I - Interface between new and old snow

Problem Type

Wind-Drifted Snow

Slab Thickness

15.0 centimeters

Slab Layer Grain Type

Wind packed

Images

[Skier-Triggered Wind Slab N. Bridgers 2](#)

[Skier-Triggered Wind Slab N. Bridgers 1](#)

[Wind Slab at Fairy Lake](#)

Slab Thickness units

centimeters

Single / Multiple / Red Flag

Multiple Avalanches

Advisory Year

[18-19](#)